WIKIPEDIA

Maonan language

The **Maonan language** (Chinese: 毛南语; pinyin: *Máonán yǔ*) is a Kam–Sui language spoken mainly in Huanjiang Maonan Autonomous County, Hechi, northern Guangxi by the Maonan people.[3]

Maonan	
Native to	China
Region	Huanjiang County, Hechi, northern Guangxi
Ethnicity	107,000 (2000)[1]
Native speakers	30,000 (2005)[1]
Language family	Kra–Dai ▪ Kam–Sui ▪ **Maonan**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`mmd`
Glottolog	`maon1241 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/maon1241)`[2]

Contents

Demographics
Phonology
Syntax
Writing System
See also
References
External links

Demographics

Approximately half of all Maonan people are capable of speaking Maonan. In addition to this, many Maonan also speak Chinese or a Zhuang language. About 1/3 of all people who self-identify as Maonan are concentrated in the southern Guizhou province. They speak a mutually unintelligible dialect commonly called *Yanghuang*, which is more common known as the Then language in Western literature. The Maonan do not have a writing system.

Other than Huanjiang Maonan Autonomous County in Guangxi, Maonan is also spoken in the following locations.[4]

- Nandan County, Guangxi
- Du'an Yao Autonomous County, Guangxi
- Yizhou, Guangxi
- Libo County, Guizhou
- Pingtang County, Guizhou

Phonology

Maonan is a tonal language with 8 tones (Lu 2008:90–91),[3] featuring an SVO clause construction (Lu 2008:169).[3] (See Proto-Tai language#Tones for an explanation of the tone numbers.) For example:

man^{2}	*na*^{4}	*kʰaːu*^{3}
3SG	eat	wine

"S/He drinks wine."

- - -

man^{2}	*paːi*^{1}	*hɯ*^{1}
3SG	go	market

"S/He goes to the market."

Syntax

Maonan displays a head-first modification structure, i.e. the modifier occurring after the modifier (Lu 2008:170).[3] For example:

kʰaːu^{3}	*ɦu*^{4}*ljaːŋ*^{4}
wine	broomcorn

"broomcorn wine"

- - -

mu^{5}	*laːu*^{4}
pig	big

"big pig"

- - -

nok^{7}	*vin*^{1}
bird	fly

"flying bird"

Occasionally, a head-final modification structure is also possible with the involvement of a possessive particle (P.P.) *ti*^{5}. For example:

jaːn^{1}	*ndaːu*^{1}	*ti*^{5}
house/family	1PL	P.P.
bo^{4}		
buffalo		

"Our family's buffalo"

(cf. the more common *bo*^{4} *jaːn*^{1} *ndaːu*^{1}) (Lu 2008:173-174).[3]

Writing System

The Maonan writing system was established in 2010 based on the 26 Latin alphabets to facilitate standard keyboard input.[5] The letters *z, j, x, s, h* are attached to the end of each syllable as tonal markers, representing tones 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 respectively. The first tone is not written. Syllables ending in -b, -d, -g, -p, -t, -k do not distinguish tone either. The writing system is being used among a limited number of Maonan intellectuals.[6] For example:

Writing:	*Hez*	*suen*
IPA:	ɦe^{2}	suːn^{1}
Gloss:	1SG	teach
ngz	*nhieij*	*hux*

ŋ^{2}	ˀnjai^{3}	ɦu^{4}
2SG	buy	rice
gangs	*deih*	*tuet*
kaːŋ^{5}	dai^{6}	tuːt$^{7'}$
stitch	bag	take-off
mad		
maːt$^{8'}$		
sock		

Meaning: "I teach you (how) to buy rice, stitch bags and take off (your) socks."

See also

- Maonan people

References

1. Maonan (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/mmd/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Maonan" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/maon1241). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Lu, Tian Qiao (2008). *A Grammar of Maonan*. Boca Raton, Florida: Universal Publishers. ISBN 978-1-59942-971-7.
4. Guangxi Minority Languages Orthography Committee. 2008. *Vocabularies of Guangxi ethnic languages [广西民族语言方音词汇]*. Beijing: Nationalities Publishing House [民族出版社].
5. Maonan website: http://maonan.org/wenzi/HagLeaMauhnanh.asp?boardid=24
6. Maonan website: http://maonan.org/wenzi/shengdiao.asp

External links

- Maonan.info by Lu Tianqiao (https://web.archive.org/web/20110603171625/http://maonan.info/)

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Maonan_language&oldid=959720341"

This page was last edited on 30 May 2020, at 07:50 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.